

TEXAS -- 2001 Nursing Facility Transitions Independent Living Center Grant

Identified Problems with the States' Long-Term Care System

- The number and service needs of consumers residing in nursing facilities who wish to transition into home and community settings is unknown.
- Inability to make services available in a reasonable timeframe to individuals on waiting lists.
- A shortage of direct care workers.
- Little information available for potential transition consumers.
- Lack of affordable housing that is accessible to people with functional limitations.
- Lack of funding to cover the costs of establishing a home.

Perceived Strengths

- Organized and effective advocacy community.
- Well-developed waiver programs and other services.
- Existing services meet the needs of most Medicaid-eligible individuals needing long-term care.
- CILS in Texas are experienced in facilitating transition from institutions to the community.
- The State of Texas is establishing new services and options which may address several barriers. However, these elements (listed below) are currently unfunded or not available statewide or on a permanent basis:
 - C Allow Medicaid nursing facility funding to “follow the person” to pay for community based services
 - C Allow exceptions to the individual cost caps on services through 1915(c) waiver programs
 - C Establish a “relocation specialist” within community organizations
 - C Establish one-time flexible grants to help individuals pay for expenses related to acquiring housing and establishing a household
 - C Implement a monthly housing allowance to assist individuals waiting for federal housing assistance
 - C Implement an “alternative families” pilot program to facilitate placement of children residing in nursing facilities with families
 - C Expand the “Vendor Fiscal Intermediary” option to allow consumers of long-term care services to have greater control over personal attendant and respite services
 - C Pilot a Medicaid “Buy-In” for individuals who meet the medical eligibility requirements but do not qualify because of work income
 - C Initiate use of HUD “Project Access” rental assistance targeting people transitioning from nursing facilities

Primary Focus of Grant Activities

- Develop and disseminate materials to replicate “best practices” for identification of consumers for community transition.
- Coordinate annual conferences of CIL staff, state agency staff, and partners.
- Participate in ongoing training activities in each of the 11 state regions.
- Present specific recommendations for local, state, and national policy changes.

Goals, Objectives, and Activities

Overall Goal. The Texas Independent Living Partnership will identify people seeking to transition to community, provide training, and contribute to the state’s long-term care infrastructure.

Goal. Expand upon successful outreach activities to identify people with disabilities of all ages in nursing facilities who are seeking to transition to the community with appropriate services and supports.

Objectives/Activities

- Collect information from CILs and other partners on individuals wishing to transition to the community and perceived barriers to doing so.
- Survey Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) staff and direct service providers regarding barriers to enrollment, service planning, and service initiation.
- Coordinate annual conferences of CIL staff, state agency staff, and partners.
- Develop and disseminate materials to replicate “best practices” for identification of consumers for community transition.

Goal. Develop and implement components of training targeted to state agency staff, consumers, volunteers, advocates, and private service providers to address barriers to community transition.

Objectives/Activities

- Draft, review, and revise training components in cooperation with CILs, partners, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Advisory Group, and state agencies.
- Participate in ongoing training activities in each of the 11 state regions.
- Conduct on-site and follow-up evaluation of training activities.
- Compile and report results to HHSC and TDHS management and seek to incorporate training elements within agency procedure.

Goal. Develop lasting partnerships and implement systemic changes that supplement the state’s infrastructure.

Objectives/Activities

- Build relationships between CILs, partners, and TDHS at the state and regional level through informal agreements and contracts to perform “relocation specialist” functions.

- Seek commitment of outside funding to expand efforts to identify and assist individuals seeking to transition to the community.
- Evaluate state agency policy, procedure, and practices in implementing new programs to facilitate transition to community.
- Present specific recommendations for local, state, and national policy changes.

Key Activities and Products

- Coordinate annual conferences of CIL staff, state agency staff, and partners.
- Develop and disseminate materials to replicate “best practices” for identification of consumers for community transition.
- Participate in ongoing training activities in each of the 11 state regions.
- Present specific recommendations for local, state, and national policy changes.

Consumer Partners and Consumer Involvement in Planning Activities

The Consumer Task Force (CTF) is a group of HHSC-appointed individuals which includes representatives from a disability advocacy group and the aging community, as well as a parent of a child with mental retardation and autism, an adult with a physical disability, a representative of an ILC, and a representative from an organization representing individuals with cognitive disabilities. The CTF met on two occasions to provide input for the proposal work plans.

Consumer Partners and Consumer Involvement in Implementation Activities

The Texas Health & Human Services Commission-appointed Olmstead Advisory Group will review and comment on all project work products, reports, and systems change recommendations.

Public Partners

The Grantee is a partner in the Texas Independent Living Partnership—a cooperative effort of the Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL), the Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS).

Private Partners and Subcontractors

Private partners include each of the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Texas. There are no subcontractors.

Public and Private Partnership Development/Involvement in the Planning Phase

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) were involved in all phases of development of the state's response to the Olmstead decision and the proposal.

Public and Private Partnership Development/Involvement in Implementation

Public Partners

All of the partners in the Texas Independent Living Partnership—a cooperative effort of the Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL), the Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS)—will be involved in implementation activities.

Private Partners

Centers for Independent Living will be involved in the outreach, training, and infrastructure-related activities.

Oversight/Advisory Committee

The Partnership's primary external oversight will come from the HHSC Advisory Group.

Formative Learning and Evaluation Activities

- An annual coordinated management plan will ensure evaluation activities are in place for all the project's goals, objectives, and business processes. The plan will also ensure that there are no overlaps, duplications, or gaps among the agency's evaluating activities. The evaluation includes ongoing, recurring, periodic reviews of accuracy, customer service, process evaluations, outcome evaluations, impact evaluations, and a cost-benefit/cost-effectiveness analysis.
- The ARCIL Board of Directors conducts quarterly reviews of all programmatic and financial activities to ensure the proposed project is being implemented in accordance with HCFA requirements. Board reviews will ensure project administrators and staff are achieving the goals and objectives of the project.

Evidence of Enduring Change/Sustainability

The Partnership will assist the state in developing several work products: a) a uniform set of information to be collected from consumers during various outreach activities; b) information on best practices for identifying and assisting consumers; c) related training components; and d) recommendations for ongoing systems change supported by a broad coalition of consumers, advocates, service providers, and state agency representatives.

Geographic Focus

Statewide.